

**For Immediate Release  
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## **DCS INITIATES INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATION OF CHILD FATALITY**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.**-- The Department of Children's Services has initiated an internal affairs investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of a six-month old child from Maury County. Internal Affairs will investigate whether appropriate policies and procedures were followed; how the child protective services investigations were handled; and whether the services placed in the family's home specifically addressed the needs.

DCS had received three CPS referrals involving the six-month old prior to his death on December 12, 2004. The allegations involved lack of supervision, drug exposure and substantial risk of physical injury.

Three workers involved in the case have been placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the IA investigation. Internal Affairs will provide all findings to Department Commissioner Viola P. Miller, who will determine appropriate disciplinary action if warranted.

The case will also be reviewed from a programmatic standpoint to determine if there should be changes to current policies and procedures regarding CPS investigations.

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services was established to provide the best possible care for children and youth who are in state custody, or at significant risk of entering custody, and their families. Services provided by DCS include child protective services, foster care, adoption, kinship care, programs for delinquent youth, probation/aftercare, and treatment and rehabilitation programs for identified youth.

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